

The Massed Bands of :

The Royal Lincolnshire Regiments

The Royal Sussex Regiment and

The Royal Irish Fusiliers

under the Conductor : Mr JPC BAILEY LRAM ARCM,
1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment.

MUSIC

Entry : "Great Little Army" and "The Steamboat"
March & Countermarch : "56th Brigade"
Exit : "The Lincolnshire Poacher"

THE MASSED BANDS

Music designed to promote orderly marching, to enliven the spirits and so minimize fatigue, has been used from early times. But it was not until 1762 that Bands were used by the British Army, and a custom introduced of employing negroes to play drums, cymbals and similar instruments. These "sable" musicians were dressed in a highly picturesque manner which was quite fantastic. The drummers twirled their drumsticks above their heads and wore tiger skins, two features that have survived to this day in the swinging of their sticks and the wearing of tiger skins by the Tenor and Bass Drummers.

All Regimental Bands were unofficial until 1857. It was not until Massed Bands taking part in a Review, were ordered to play "GOD SAVE THE QUEEN" that it was realized that no two versions or keys of our National Anthem agreed. This discovery resulted in the order for the formation of a Military School of Music. Kneller Hall, at Twickenham, was requisitioned and is, to this day, the establishment where all Bandmasters and most of the Soloists of the Armies of the Empire are trained.